FREDERICK J. PIKE
INTERIOR DECORATOR & DESIGNER

FABRICS
ANTIQUES
PAINTING
FLOOR COVERING
MURALS
BARS – CLUBS
PRODUCT DESIGN

November 6, 1969

Mr. Gordon M. Jackson, Jr.
Design Engineer
General Dynamics Convair Division
Lindbergh Field Plant
P. O. Box 1950
San Diego, Calif. 92112

Dear Mr. Jackson:

The box of materials you returned has been received intact. Thank you so much for the new negative and the print of Mr. Pike with our Fleet ship. The print you sent me is such a good one I intend to have it framed. I am amazed that you know the serial number of our plane.

Mr. Pike was a very young man when he worked with the Elias ship for the Navy. I will keep you in mind, in the event I find any photos that might interest you.

It has been a real pleasure for me to share my mememtoes with your project. I only regret Mr. Pike could not be here. There would be so much he could have offered.

When the project is completed, if you print pictures or a brochure, I would greatly enjoy having one as a keepsake.

Very truly yours,

Mary Pike

Mrs. Frederick J. Pike

475 DELAWARE AVENUE
BUFFALO 2, NEW YORK

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Convair Division

Lindbergh Field Plant, P. O. Box 1950, San Diego, California 92112 · 714-296-6611

COPY

21 October 1969

Mrs. Frederick J. Pike
475 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York - 14202

Dear Mrs. Pike:

Enclosed with thanks are the photographs, negatives, clippings and other material that you have so graciously shared with me. Copies of these together with the Commodore items and W.W. II aircraft pictures that you have donated comprise a valued addition to our Convair Aircraft Historical Collection.

Our records show that your beautiful Fleet Model 2, Serial No. 307 was transferred from our inventory on 28 August 1930. We copied the photo of Mr. Pike; the new negative and a print are enclosed.

The negatives marked "Commodore Launchings" actually depict the U. S. Navy's Elias EM-1, C1919. While these are not Convair related, we were delighted to have the opportunity to print them. Should you turn up any other aircraft photos or negatives, please keep me in mind.

Regarding the Commodore and Fleetster color schemes, I recently acquired a scrapbook of Consolidated advertising including some colored renderings. These depict orange wings and trim with cream fuselage for the N.Y.R.B.A. machines.

Thanks, again, for your kindness. Looking forward to an opportunity to reciprocate I am,

Very truly yours,

Gordon M. Jackson, Jr.
Design Engineer
Mail Zone 533-21

FREDERICK J. PIKE
INTERIOR DECORATOR & DESIGNER

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September 18, 1969

Mr. Gordon M. Jackson, Jr.,
Design Engineer
GENERAL DYNAMICS, Convair Division
Lindbergh Field Plant,
P. O. Box 1950
San Diego, California 92112

Dear Mr. Jackson:

I am mailing today, under separate cover, a box of materials on the Commodore.

One envelope contains 8" x 10" photographs of interiors, of which are duplicates, which you may keep. You may also keep the light, the hardware and the wood carved patterns. I found a magazine section of color photographs of different planes, including several built by Consolidated. Mr. Robert J. Woods, plane designer, was a close personal friend of Mr. Pike. You may keep the magazine photos.

Included in the box are photos of our fleet and some negatives, of which I don't have all the prints. I wish they were in color. The body was a pretty shade of grey, the light stripes were Chinese Red, stripped in black. And, I might add, it was the prettiest little ship at the airport. The large photo is of Mr. Pike with the fleet, and the small photo is of myself sitting on the wing.

I have located a group of negatives which, I am certain, are launchings of the Commodores. I do not have prints of these negatives, so I would appreciate your returning them after you copy them.

In one envelope are some designs of aircraft lighting fixtures and hardware. I believe some of them were used in the interior design of the Fleetster for the Assistant Secretary of War. It also contains Mr. Pike's paper "Interior Finish and Decoration of the Flying Boats". Please return these to me. I would also like you to return the newspaper publicity clippings.

I wish you much success in your research. I am sure Mr. Pike would have enjoyed sharing his knowledge with you.

Sincerely yours,

Mary K. Pike

Mrs. Frederick J. Pike

475 DELAWARE AVENUE
BUFFALO 2, NEW YORK

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Convair Division

Lindbergh Field Plant, P. O. Box 1950, San Diego, California 92112 · 714-296-6611

COPY

9 September 1969

Mrs. Frederick J. Pike
475 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Mrs. Pike:

Thank you for looking up the Commodore material. I would like, very much, to borrow and copy the photographs, clippings and, especially, Mr. Pike's paper, "Interior Finish..". I expect to handle them carefully and to return them promptly.

Any information, photos, etc. concerning the Fleet airplane accepted by Mr. Pike as compensation for the Commodore job would also be relevant to the Commodore story.

With respect to the Commodore hardware and fixtures, if you have several of a small item, I would be delighted to have a memento for our collection.

You may be interested to know that I have located former Asst. Secretary of War F. Trubee Davison at Locust Valley, Long Island. I hope to get a letter off to him soon concerning the Fleetster.

Thank you, again, for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Gordon M. Jackson, Jr.
Design Engineer
Mail Zone 533-21

GMJ:lc

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Convair Division

Lindbergh Field Plant, P. O. Box 1950, San Diego, California 92112 · 714-296-6611

COPY

26 September 1969

Mrs. Frederick J. Pike
475 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York - 14202

Dear Mrs. Pike:

Your letter arrived Monday followed by your package on Thursday. Everything was in perfect order.

Thank you, so much, for the patterns, hardware and pictures and for the loan of the negatives, prints, clippings and design data. To say that I am delighted understates the case.

Your material will be copied and returned shortly. I shall let you know when to expect it.

Thanks again,

Gordon Jackson

FREDERICK J. PIKE
INTERIOR DECORATOR & DESIGNER

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August 13, 1969

Mr. Gordon M. Jackson, Jr.
Design Engineer
General Dynamics
Convair Division
Lindbergh Field Plant, P. O. Box 1950
San Diego, California 92112

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Thank you for your inquiry about Mr. Pike's contribution to the Commodores and the Fleetsters. If Mr. Pike were here he would be delighted to help you in your research.

I have located fourteen 8" x 10" actual photographs of the interior of the flying boat after completion of the decorating. There is a typewritten paper, written by Mr. Pike titled "Interior Finish and Decoration of Flying Boat". This paper describes frame construction of seats as well as fabrics used. I also have a magazine advertisement by F. Schumacher & Company showing fabrics used in the flying boat, a newspaper clipping with a photo and publicity showing Mrs. Herbert Hoover christening the flying boat, and a publicity article from the New York Times at the time it was shown in New York City.

The photographs show the interior lights. I have two side lights and two center lights of cast aluminum, some handles in cast aluminum, and the carved wood patterns for the center lights.

Though Mr. Pike decorated a Fleetster for the Secretary of War, I have as yet been unable to locate anything on this project.

If anything I have described can be of interest to you, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Mary K. Pike

(Mrs.) Frederick J. Pike

475 DELAWARE AVENUE
BUFFALO 2, NEW YORK

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Convair Division

Lindbergh Field Plant, P. O. Box 1950, San Diego, California 92112 · 714-296-6611

COPY

30 July 1969

Mrs. Frederick J. Pike
475 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York - 14202

Dear Mrs. Pike:

Thanks, so much, for your kind reception to my telephone call.

Aviation for January 11, 1930 credits Mr. Pike with design of the sumptuous interiors of the Commodores. We are restoring a display model of the Commodore and hoped that Mr. Pike might have retained some relevant information. I am sorry that I called too late.

Part of my activity at Convair is devoted to building the Convair Aircraft Historical Collection, consisting of photographs, data, history, memorabilia, etc.

Anything you might turn up concerning Consolidated, Fleet, Hall or Thomas-Morse would be of interest, with special emphasis on the Commodores and the Fleetsters at this time.

In the case of the Fleetsters, I am researching toward an article for the Journal of the American Aviation Historical Society.

Thanks, again, for your courtesy. Looking forward to hearing from you, I am

Very sincerely,

Gordon M. Jackson, Jr.
Design Engineer
Mail Zone 533-21

GMJ:lc